Improvement of heritage route

*254. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) what is the planning of Government for the improvement of Heritage Route between Ahmedabad and Dandi;

(b) whether there is separate budgetary provision for this work; and

(c) what is the time schedule for the completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Heritage Route from Ahmedabad to Dandi has been declared as National Highway No. 228 in June, 2006 and is being entrusted to the Government to Gujarat for development and maintenance. Government of Gujarat has been requested to prioritize the improvement works on this National Highway for consideration under Ministry's Annual Plans. At present, no separate budget provision has been made for improvement of this National Highway.

(c) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and therefore no time frame can be drawn.

Locating young sporting talent

*255. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any machinery to locate young sporting talents in rural areas and small villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken a view on the debate over the recent case of young sporting prodigy who ran long distance; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would support its agencies to encourage such child prodigies with scientific training under qualified trainers?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Sports is a State subject and its promotion is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. However, the Government of India, through its own Schemes and through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments.

At present, SAI is implementing the following Schemes for the promotion and development of sports in the country through its nationwide network of training centres and adoption of institutions:—

- National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
- Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC)
- Special Area Games (SAG)
- SAI Training Centre (STC)
- Center of Excellence (COX)

Induction of sports talents is done on the basis of selection trials conducted on an all-India basis in which talented children from rural & tribal areas also take part.

(c) The Government of India is aware of the case of four-Year old child, Master Budhia Singh, including concerns over the medical advisability of subjecting small children to such physical strain. However, as sports is a State Subject, it is for the State Government of Orissa to take appropriate action in the matter.

(d) The Government of India, through the Sports Authority of India as mentioned above, facilitates the grooming of budding talent in different age groups, depending on the requirements of individual schemes under the SAI schemes, the minimum age of induction is 8 years.

Security measures in telecom sector

*256. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has rejected the idea of automatic route for 74 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in telecom sector in the larger interest of national security; and